

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

--ABSTRACT

AD A cylindrical projecting portion is disposed in a projected tip end portion of an inner ring which is to be pressingly inserted into one end portion of a pipe member to be integrated therewith, an inner radial face of the cylindrical projecting portion is formed as a conical tapered face in which the diameter is larger as one moves toward the outer side in the axial direction, and a cylindrical groove into which the cylindrical projecting portion of the inner ring including the conical tapered face is to be fitted in the axial direction to form a sealing portion is formed in an inner area of a receiving port of a joint body to form sealing portions between the two members and, whereby even a small fastening force due to screw advancement of a pressing ring is enabled to generate a high contact pressure between the tapered face and an outer radial face, and faces and which are opposed thereto, to ensure a sealing performance of very high reliability.--

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of October 3, 2001 is gratefully acknowledged.

In a separate Letter to the Official draftsman, a proposal to amend Figs 7-9 is presented. Upon the examiner's approval, the formal drawings of these figures will be corrected.

The rejection of claims 2 and 3 as indefinite under 35 USC 112, and the rejection of 1, 2 and 4-9 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Nishio in view of Fukumoto et al are noted.

To place this application in condition for allowance, claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 have been cancelled and replaced with claims 10 and 11, with claims 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 made dependent on